



U.S. Congressman A. Donald
McEACHIN

The Technology Assessment for Air Quality Management Act Of 2022

Led by Congressman A. Donald McEachin (D-VA-04) and Senator Edward Markey (D-MA)

Air Pollution in the United States

More than 4 in 10 Americans—representing 135 million people—live in areas with unhealthy levels of air pollution. Notably, Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities as well as low-income communities experience higher levels of air pollution and disproportionate health burdens. However, current methods of air quality monitoring do not capture the dynamics of persistently poor air quality at the local level in environmental justice communities. Newer hyperlocal air quality monitoring technologies have the potential to supplement our assessment of the local impacts of air pollution. Moving forward, it is important to better understand how these air quality sensors should be deployed across spatial scales and integrated to provide the most benefit, and how the data should be interpreted.

The Solution

The Technology Assessment for Air Quality Management Act would authorize \$55 million over five years for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to:

- Annually update and expand its online air quality toolbox with best-available monitor technologies, methods, and associated uses of data.
- Connect the toolbox with environmental justice mapping and screening tools.
- Establish a working group consisting of representatives from EPA regional offices, air agencies, environmental justice networks, data science, and public health science to develop templates for integrated monitoring systems.
- Direct the EPA and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct an inventory of the locations and operation statuses of air monitors, existing data infrastructure, high-priority areas for monitoring deployment in environmental justice communities, and workforce needs to improve air quality management across scales.

Endorsements

The Technology Assessment for Air Quality Management Act is endorsed by the Environmental Defense Fund, American Lung Association, American Thoracic Society, Clean Air Task Force, Moms Clean Air Force, and Dr. Sacoby Wilson (Director of the Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health).

This bill is **cosponsored by** Reps. Nanette Barragán, Lisa Blunt Rochester, Kathy Castor, Yvette Clark, Raúl Grijalva, and Pramila Jayapal.

The Senate companion bill is led by Sen. Edward Markey and cosponsored by Sens. Tina Smith, Tammy Duckworth, Richard Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Elizabeth Warren, Michael Bennet, Bernie Sanders, Chris Van Hollen, Sheldon Whitehouse, Patty Murray, and Cory Booker.